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INTERNATIONAL OIL: The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which earlier this year reached five-year agreements on increased revenues from Western oil companies, now has set a new goal of "participation" in these companies.

OPEC will meet in a special session late this month to discuss various plans--most of them calling for a 20-percent equity in oil company operations. Recent OPEC conferences have explored participation by member governments in oil production as well as in transport, refinery, and marketing operations.

Although OPEC members appear agreed on the desirability of participation, they probably will take some time to reach a detailed plan to pursue this objective. Furthermore, implementation of whatever measures are decided on would take place over several years, according to OPEC officials.

It is likely that bilateral discussions between the 11 OPEC member countries and Western oil companies operating within their borders will soon begin. Wide differences in operating conditions and varying complications in existing agreements between governments and oil companies will require extensive study before a plan acceptable even to OPEC members can be developed.

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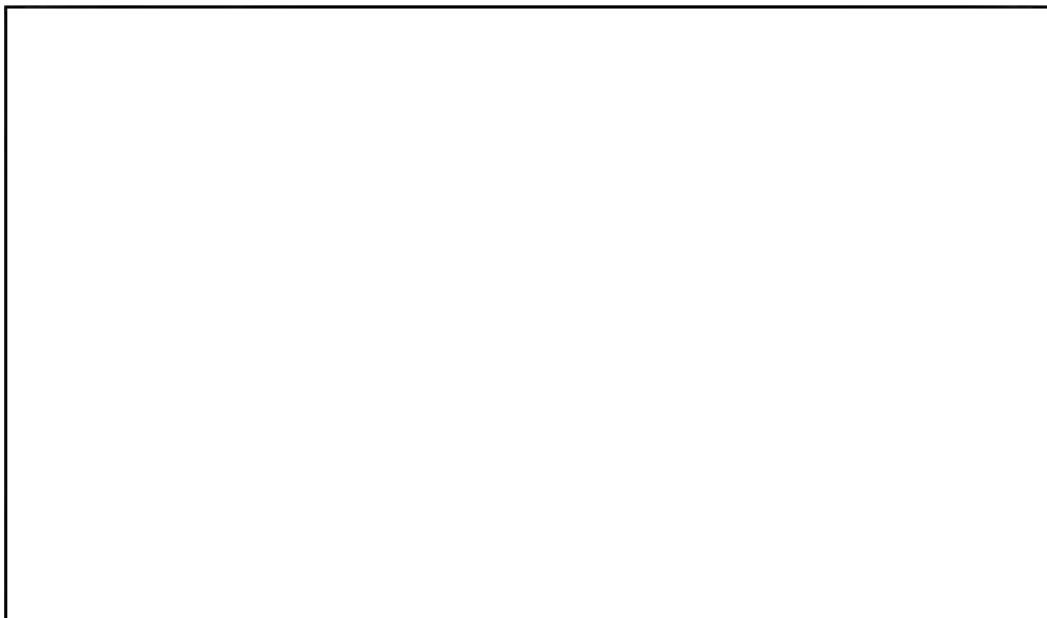
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[MALTA: Prime Minister Mintoff has told acting NATO Secretary General Kastl that Malta is faced with an urgent need for interim funds to prevent a financial crisis. Mintoff wants NATO to provide approximately \$5 million with "no strings attached" so that his government can meet current expenses. He told Kastl that if this aid is not granted by Thursday, he would order British forces to leave Malta the following morning. Kastl, who is convinced of the seriousness of Valletta's economic difficulties, planned to call a special North Atlantic Council meeting to discuss the situation in Malta.

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